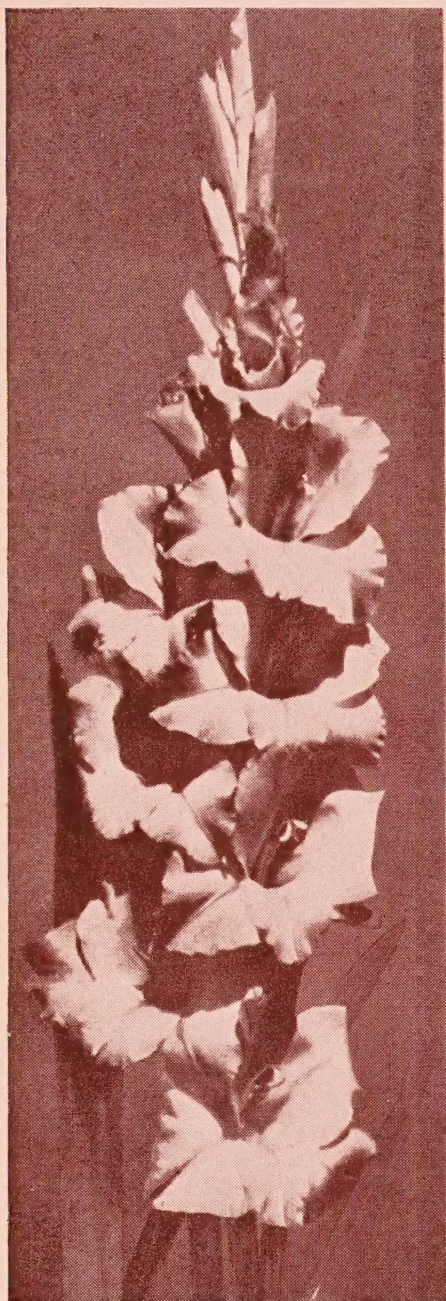


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



II
N
V
I
T
A
T
I
O
N

TO

B
E
A
U
T
Y

Message of Song

RIDGE VIEW FARM

R. F. D. 1, Glens Falls, N. Y.

Glad Greetings to Old Friends and New Friends



¶ As far back as memory goes, we always had a few Glads in our home garden, but in 1923 we began to grow Glads at Ridge View Farm in considerable numbers. We did not consider Glad growing as a part of our business, but we put them in along with our strawberries, raspberries and garden produce because of the vast amount of pleasure that we derived from having them and sharing them with our friends.

¶ We started with the best kinds then obtainable: Alice Tiplady, E. J. Shaylor, Persia, Souvenir and many other varieties whose names are not now remembered. Each year, as our enthusiasm grew, we eagerly searched the catalogs and added the newest varieties to our list until, at one period, we were growing about 700 different kinds.

¶ But we didn't stop there. The idea of creating our own varieties had fired our imagination soon after we had started to grow Glads in quantity and after about ten years of hybridizing, our own originations began to take up a large part of the time and space which we could devote to this hobby.

¶ We then began to discard all but a choice few of the varieties listed by other growers, keeping only those whose outstanding qualities and performances fitted them, in our estimation, as parents for our Webster Gladiolus. Each year since, as new varieties were brought out by other breeders, they have been purchased, given a fair trial, used in hybridizing if considered worthy, kept for cut flower purposes if suitable, or promptly discarded.

¶ We are still growing Glads for pleasure. We never have expected huge financial returns from our blooms and bulbs, and we are not inclined to commercialize our enjoyment of them in a big way. However, we do believe that a hobby like this should be able, more or less, to stand on its own feet; and, yielding to the insistence of many friends, we have had the enclosed order blank made up to send to folks who would appreciate it; as well as this invitation to come up to Ridge View Farm and enjoy our Glads with us.

¶ If you like our Glads, we'll be happy to supply you with bulbs. If you need cut flowers, it will be a pleasure to cut them for you. If you have all the Glad bulbs and flowers that you need, or have no place or time in which to grow or tend them, we want you to come up just the same and help us enjoy ours. Many of

our friends have been doing this for years and do not need this special invitation. We want you to come too. Ninety per cent. of our fun in growing Glads comes from our enjoyment of the pleasure that they give to others.

¶ Each day is a new thrill during the entire blooming season (mid-July to October). Each day new varieties will be coming into flower and the different types, colors and combinations will intrigue and delight you. Each day you will see new Giant Exhibition varieties as well as a galaxy of our Miniature kinds that are so pleasing for flower arrangement, corsages and home decoration.

¶ If you are interested, you can watch the process of creating new varieties, the crossings of the parent flowers, the growing seed and selecting for the trial grounds where the new creations have to compete with the best efforts of other hybridizers.

¶ Wouldn't you like to try your hand at this? The technique of cross-pollination is quickly learned. Just let your imagination be your inspiration and either take the seeds home in the Fall or let us grow them for you. You'll get a thrill such as you never had before when you see your very own new Gladiolus creations flowering for the first time.

¶ Among the Webster Gladiolus in our fields will be found some of the outstanding originations of our father (Rev. G. O. Webster) and uncle (Julius E. Webster) who created many fine, new Glads. Both have left their work here and gone on to a Greater Garden. Each variety has been tested against real competition and, all sentiment aside, is being grown because it has been found worthy. Each year as we test and as our stock of these and our own new originations increase, we will offer them to you at reasonable prices and you can be the first in your locality to have these beautiful new varieties not obtainable elsewhere.

¶ Come up and enjoy them all, even before the bulbs of some varieties are released for sale. Make notes on the ones you will want the minute they are available. Bring your friends. Revel in our wonderful view of the Green Mountains and the Adirondacks. Spend all the time you wish in browsing around the farm or walking up and down the long rows in our fields of beautiful Glads.

¶ This is not just a sales talk. Whether you buy or not, you can be sure of a real welcome. We are going to get as much pleasure from showing you our Glads as you are going to get in seeing them. So make plans to come, not once, but often.

¶ Take Ridge Road, a concrete continuation of Ridge Street running north out of Glens Falls, N. Y. About 4 miles from the center of the city pass by the first road that comes onto Ridge Road from your right. Take the next right hand road just a few hundred feet beyond this first one. About one mile in on this beautifully scenic road you will come to Ridge View Farm. You can't miss it. We'll be looking for you.

Katharine and George Webster,
Ridge View Farm, Glens Falls, New York
R. F. D. 1



